

Admiral gets top CIA job

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Adm. Stansfield Turner, 53, commander of allied forces in southern Europe and a Naval Academy classmate of President Carter, is the President's choice to head the Central Intelligence Agency, the White House said yesterday.

Turner, an expert on the Soviet Navy, has served as director of systems analysis for the Chief of Naval Operations at the Pentagon, as president of the Naval War College and as commander of the US Second Fleet.

Asked why Carter chose Turner, White House press secretary Jody Powell said, "The major reason is his (Carter's) feeling this is a person who has his complete trust."

Theodore Sorensen, Carter's first choice for the post, withdrew his nomination last month in the face of Senate opposition.

"He (Turner) was so far ahead of us that we never considered him competition or even a peer, and I'm not exaggerating," White House spokesman Rex Granum quoted Carter as telling the Cabinet yesterday.

"I think as you meet him you will find him a military person who in the future could be the next George Marshall," a reference to the former Army chief of staff who became Sec-



Photo of Adm. Stansfield Turner, President Carter's choice to head CIA, was taken last September. Profile of Turner, Page 9. (AP photo)

retary of State under President Harry S. Truman, Carter told the Cabinet.

Turner and Carter graduated from Annapolis in 1946. Turner finished 25th academically and Carter ranked 59th in the class of 820 cadets.

Carter also announced that he is retaining Jack Eckerd, a wealthy Florida Republican, as head of the General Services Administration.

Eckerd, who owns a chain of more than 200 drugstores in Florida and Georgia, was appointed to head the agency by President Ford more than a year ago.

Powell said Carter was satisfied with Eckerd's capability and decided to keep him because he did not think the GSA's top job should be political in nature.

Carter also sent another nomination to the Senate for confirmation, that of W. Graham Clayton Jr. as Secretary of the Navy.

Clayton, who served as a lieutenant commander in the Navy during World War II, is chairman and chief executive officer of the Southern Railway System.

In other action, Carter served notice that when he leaves the White House for personal or family reasons, he intends to do so secretly, even if his destination is a public event.

The question was raised by reporters with Powell because Carter, his wife and daughter went to a Kennedy Center opera on Sunday without public announcement. The press pool that customarily accompanies presidents when they leave the White House was left behind.